

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 are amended. Claims 2 and 7 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-20 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 11, 12, 15 and 18 is noted and appreciated.

Claim 2, which depends directly from claim 1, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 1 rather than from canceled claim 2. Claims 4, 5, 13, 16 and 19 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 13, 16 and 19 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 7, which depends directly from claim 6, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 6 is rewritten to include all limitations of claim 7, and claim 7 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 8 is amended to depend from claim 6 rather than from canceled claim 7. Claims 9, 10, 14, 17 and 20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 6. Thus, claims 6, 8-10, 14, 17 and 20 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Megawa (US 2003/0123033). Claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Megawa in view of Sakano (US 5,771,104). In view of the amendment of claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 into allowable form, as discussed above, these grounds for rejection are now moot.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration and

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entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our
Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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